



Welcome to the first edition of my newsletter. I will use this newsletter, as well as my newly-launched [Facebook page](#), to keep you up to date about what is happening in County government as well as significant events in the Dulles District.

It was an honor to be elected Dulles District Supervisor in November. With that responsibility comes accountability, and that includes being in regular communication with my constituents. Please feel free to contact me by email (Matt.Letourneau@loudoun.gov) or phone (703-771-5069) with any input, questions or concerns you have.

For those that aren't familiar, the Board of Supervisors is a 9-member body that has both legislative and executive powers. I'm one of 8 district representatives, and our Chairman is elected county-wide. We deal with everything from Loudoun's \$1.6 billion budget to land use and zoning issues.

This newsletter is longer than most will be because I want to share with you some of the organizational items that have occurred so far. I hope you find it informative!

Committee Assignments

The Board of Supervisors has four standing committees. I was honored to be selected by Chairman York and my colleagues to serve as Chairman of the Board's new **Economic Development Committee**. In this capacity, I will be conducting oversight over Loudoun's efforts to create jobs and create a business-friendly environment. I believe this is a crucial issue that will impact our budget, tax rate and commutes for decades to come, so I look forward to the challenge.

I am also a member of the **Transportation and Land Use Committee**, which considers all zoning requests and reviews proposed projects.

Citizen Appointments

Loudoun County has a number of important Boards and Commissions that help set policy in key areas. As Dulles District Supervisor, I have the authority to appoint representatives from our district to serve on them. In making my appointments, I have sought out qualified individuals

with subject matter expertise that are willing to serve their fellow citizens. To date, my appointments are:

Planning Commission – Jeff Salmon. Prior to his appointment, Jeff served as president of the South Riding Proprietary Board of Directors and as a member of the Board of Directors of the Dulles South Alliance. Jeff has been actively involved in South Riding for many years and is well versed in the land use issues facing our district. (*Nominated 1/3/12, Confirmed 1/3/12*).

Government Reform Commission – Barbara Munsey. (More on this new Commission below). A former planning commissioner and longtime South Riding resident, Barbara is very knowledgeable about County government and brings a valuable perspective to the Reform Commission. (*Nominated 1/3/12, Confirmed 1/13/12*).

Community Criminal Justice Commission – Ram Kuppuswami. Ram is chair of the South Riding Neighborhood Watch and has been active in public safety issues in the Dulles South corridor. (*Nominated 1/3/12, Confirmed 1/17/12*).

Courthouse Grounds and Facilities Committee – Bob Lynd. A Stone Ridge resident, Bob is an active member of the Virginia Bar who has had a distinguished career as an attorney. Many residents have concerns about the ongoing issues with holiday displays at the Leesburg Courthouse, which Bob and the new members of this committee will tackle. (*Nominated 1/3/12, Confirmed 1/17/12*)

Parks, Recreation and Open Space Commission – Kristen Reed. A strong advocate for athletic fields for youth sports, Kristen has been an active volunteer in South Riding and helped make the Dulles South Multipurpose Center a reality several years ago. (*Nominated 1/17/12, Expected Board Action 1/31/12*)

Animal Advisory Committee – Dr. Drew Luce. Dr. Luce is the owner of Aldie Veterinary Hospital in South Riding. Dr. Luce has been recognized as a leading veterinarian in the region and treats many pets in our area. (*Nominated 1/17/12, Expected Board Action 1/31/12*)

Advisory Commission on Youth – Randy Faleski. Mr. Faleski is the owner of Union Tae Kwan Do in South Riding and is dedicated to improving opportunities for youth, as he has been doing for years. (*Nominated 1/17/12, Expected Board Action 1/31/12*)

Legislative Update

So far, the Board of Supervisors has had two business meetings and one public hearing. We've had a packed agenda and it would be impossible to review every item in depth, but every newsletter I send will highlight a few that are of interest. Of course, I'm happy to answer questions about any vote I've taken. I'm sure that not everyone will agree with me on every issue, but I will be as open and honest as possible about the decisions I make on your behalf.

Government Reform Commission

As one of our first initiatives, the newly elected Board of Supervisors voted to create a commission that will take an in depth look at county government from top to bottom to ensure that citizens are getting the most efficient government possible. You can find information about the commission [here](#). Look for a public input session to be held in February. The Board has

given the commission a specific timeline with the intention of having actionable items identified in time for the FY2014 budget process, which will begin in November.

Long Term Planning for Route 659/Northstar Boulevard from Route 7 to Prince William County

If you've ever sat in traffic on Gum Springs Road headed to or from Prince William County, you know that Loudoun needs a much better north/south link. The Countywide Transportation Plan is a 30-year planning document that acts as a roadmap (literally) for the future growth of our transportation network. For reasons that are quite frankly beyond my comprehension, the previous Board of Supervisors voted to reduce the approved number of lanes in a future southern connection from Braddock Road to Prince William to two, as Gum Springs Road currently is. At our Jan. 17 Board meeting, the Board voted 9-0 to restore this crucial link back up to a potential 6-lane road. In addition, the Board also restored the stretch of Belmont Ridge Road from Croson Lane to Route 7 to 6-lanes. This stretch was also taken down by the previous Board of Supervisors. These changes are critical to our long term planning and will allow us to move traffic better from Dulles South to Route 66, I-95, and the rest of Loudoun County to our north. I'm thankful to my colleagues for supporting this initiative.

Fire Sprinklers in New Residential Construction

My first motion as a member of the Board was to adopt a position in favor of local control of residential fire sprinkler laws. Currently in Virginia, counties are prohibited from requiring fire sprinklers in new construction of residential units, even though new International Fire Code standards call for them. I worked with Loudoun County Fire and Rescue Chief Keith Brower to craft a new Board position asking the General Assembly to give us local control over that issue. We have seen several fires that quickly spread to neighboring units in our area. I'm particularly concerned about the impact of fires in townhome units. While sprinklers do bring an added cost, consumers will see a long term benefit in reduced insurance rates and economies of scale will help reduce the cost. My motion was adopted by the Board on a 7-2 vote.

Staff Aides

I am fortunate to have two aides assisting me at my office in Leesburg. My Legislative Aide is **Tom Parker**, a South Riding resident who has worked for Loudoun County, the Town of Leesburg, and in the technology field. Also assisting me as a Staff Aide is **Elizabeth Neuffer**, who will focus primarily on constituent services and research projects. Elizabeth previously worked for a consulting firm. Tom and Liz can be reached at Tom.Parker@loudoun.gov and Elizabeth.Neuffer@loudoun.gov.

Meeting Schedule

On January 3rd, the Board adopted a Rules of Order which sets our meeting schedule. **The public input/general business meetings** will now be held on the Tuesday before the first business meeting of the month, at 5:00 p.m. The first business meeting will be held on the first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 a.m. The monthly public hearing on specific items (such as zoning requests) will be held the following Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. The second business meeting will be held on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

The next Board of Supervisors Business Meeting will be held January 31st at 5:00 p.m. For the full meeting schedule [click here](#). Board meetings are broadcast on Verizon FiOS (Channel 40) and Comcast (Government Channel 23) and are available via [live and archived webcast](#).

Public Comment before the Board will be held at the Public Input/General Business meeting, starting as early as 6:00 p.m. at the first meeting and as early as 5:30 pm at the second. Members of the public are also invited to communicate by email (Matt.Letourneau@loudoun.gov), U.S. mail (PO Box 7000, Mailstop #1, Leesburg, VA 20177), calling the Board Comment Line (703-777-0115), or calling my office directly (703-771-5069).

District Updates

Route 50 Widening: I'm often asked about the timetable for Route 50 widening, and specifically why it will take so long (estimated to be around 3 years). I've asked those same questions myself, and the answer I was given is that keeping the road open during construction adds significant time to the project. In addition, there are utility lines that run under Route 50, making it difficult to work at night. Night work would also add an enormous cost to the project. My office will be in regular contact with VDOT and Shirley Construction (the contractor) as the project progresses to ensure that it remains on schedule. I will share information about lane closures as I get it on my [Facebook page](#).

Hal and Bernie Hanson Regional Park Workshops: Development of the Hal and Bernie Hanson Regional Park is planned on a 257-acre parcel located on Evergreen Mills Road. These workshops represent the primary opportunity for input from the community regarding master planning for the new regional park. The first two workshops are scheduled for Wednesday, February 1 and Monday, February 6 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. The third workshop will be scheduled at a later date. For more information, please call 703-777-0343, send email inquiries to prcs@loudoun.gov, or [view the press release](#).

South Riding Spring Business Expo and Community Yard Sale: Registration is now open for the Spring Business Expo and Community Yard sale taking place on Saturday, May 5 at the Dulles South Multipurpose Center. South Riding residents can call 703-327-4390 or stop in Town Hall to purchase yard sale spaces. More information and registration available on the website by [clicking here](#).

Ashburn Library Advisory Board Book Sale: Books, movies, music and more will be on sale at the Ashburn Library. Proceeds will directly benefit the library. This event is scheduled for Friday, Jan. 27, 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. ; Saturday, Jan. 28, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.; and Sunday, Jan. 29, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Assessments: 2012 tax assessments are out. I've been briefed by County Assessor Todd Kaufman, and for the most part they remained fairly stable. Should you wish to dispute your assessment, you can contact my office and we'll help you set up an appeal. You may also contact the [Assessor](#) directly.

Townhall Meeting: Finally, we are currently planning our first townhall/public input session in the Dulles District, which will be held in February. Stay tuned for details.